

REMARKS

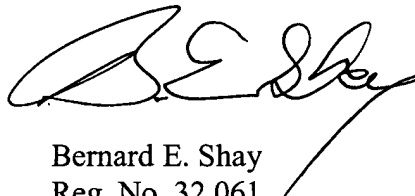
The claims have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 10, 16, and 18 have been amended.

According to applicant's understanding, none of the cited art either teaches or suggests a meter adapted to receive a test strip including a bladder, wherein the meter comprises a gimbaled bladder actuator, the gimbaled bladder actuator comprising a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element wherein the holder is attached to the meter at a gimbaled interface; and an actuator in contact with the holder for contacting the gimbaled compression pad with the bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder by movement of the actuator when the test strip is positioned in the meter.

Nor does the cited art teach or suggest a method of moving sample fluid in a test strip that includes a bladder wherein the method includes the steps of: positioning a bladder of the test strip in operative relationship with a gimbaled bladder actuator; actuating the actuator in a manner sufficient to compress the bladder; applying the sample fluid to a sample receiving region of the test strip; and actuating the actuator in a manner sufficient to decompress the bladder and thereby move the sample fluid in the test strip.

The examination of these claims and passage to allowance are therefore respectfully requested. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (408) 956-4066 to clarify any unresolved issues raised by this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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